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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/715,024	11/18/2003	Hideo Mae	1009683-000487	3316
21839 7590 12/18/2009 BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC POST OFFICE BOX 1404 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404				
EXAMINER CHENEY, BOBAE K.				
ART UNIT 2458		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 12/18/2009		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ADIPFDD@bipc.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/715,024

Applicant(s)

MAE ET AL.

Examiner

BOBAE K. CHENEY

Art Unit

2458

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/106,099.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB06)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notes of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/18/2003, 03/26/2004, 09/20/2006, 01/23/2007

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 – 15 are cancelled due to restriction.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 16 – 19 and 23 – 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because claims 16 - 19 are claiming a program per-se.
4. Claims 23 – 25 are claiming "recording medium", but does not limited to hardware embodiment in the specification. Therefore, the "recording medium" could include transitory recording medium, such as signal. If the "recording medium" is changed to "non-transitory recording medium," then the 101 rejection for claims 23 – 25 will be overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claims 16 – 24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashi (JP 2000-29648) in view of Yasushi (JP 11-220609) and Albanese (US Patent 5,617,541).

7. Regarding to **claim 16**, "A data communication program to cause a computer to execute: a confirmation step of confirming reception of electronic mail attached with one of a plurality of firmware," Takashi teaches performing e-mail reception and check whether there is any e-mail addressed to printer [Paragraph 16]. The e-mail comprises data, which is changed into program execution form (firmware). In order to check E-mail address, the system needs to confirm the reception of the e-mail first. "A permission step of permitting writing of said one firmware into a predetermined memory," Takashi teaches changing received data into program execution form (writing) [Paragraph 16]. Takashi does not teach acquirement step, determination step, permission step, or priority level. However, Yasushi and Albanese teach them. "An acquirement step of acquiring information relating to said priority level of said attached one firmware from said electronic mail," Yasushi teaches dividing large data into plurality of data [Paragraph 31, 38]. "A determination step of determining whether said attached one firmware attains a write allowable state into a predetermined memory based on said acquired information relating to a priority level," Yasushi teaches combining data of each file, which means the system determined the files are allowed to be written [Paragraph 31, 38]. "When it is determined the firmware attached attains a write allowable state by said determination step," Yasushi teaches combining data of each file [Paragraph 31, 38]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to split large file taught by Yasushi when sending firmware through e-mail taught by Takashi for the purpose of faster transaction of firmware. Large file would take longer to transfer, but smaller file is faster to transfer.

Also, e-mail has limited size of file it can transfer at one time. Takashi and Yasushi do not expressly teach "each firmware having a memory write priority level set." However, Albanese teaches data having priority levels [Column 2 Line 58 – Column 3 Line 6]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have priority level set taught by Albanese in divided files transferred taught by Yasushi for the purpose of processing the most critical data first. For example, if data A needs to be processed in order to process data B, A should be processed first. By adding priority level in the data, it would reduce the time for processing the data.

8. Regarding to **claim 17**, "further causing the computer to execute a write step of writing said one firmware into a predetermined memory when writing is permitted by said permission step," Takashi teaches changing received data into program execution form (writing) [Paragraph 16].

9. Regarding to **claim 18**, "wherein said determination step determines a write allowable state when the priority level of said attached one firmware is highest among firmware not written into a memory out of said plurality of firmware," Albanese teaches processing the data having highest priority first [Column 8 Line 55 – Column 9 Line 7].

10. **Claim 19** is similar to claim 16. Therefore, claim 19 is rejected under the similar ground.

11. **Claims 20 and 22** are similar to claim 16. Therefore, claim 20 is rejected under the similar ground.

12. **Claim 21** is similar to claim 17. Therefore, claim 21 is rejected under the similar ground.

13. **Claim 23** is similar to combination of claims claim 16 and 17. Therefore, claim 23 is rejected under the similar ground.
14. Regarding to **claim 24**, "wherein said plurality of firmware correspond to division of firmware for one module into a plurality of parts, and the priority level corresponds to an order of division," Albanese teaches storing (module) priority data [Column 2 Line 58 – Column 3 Line 6].
15. **Claim 25** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashi, Yasushi, and Albanese as applied to claim 23 above, and further in view of Felouzis (US Patent 5,943,673).
16. Regarding to **claim 25**, Takashi and Yasushi teaches plurality of firmware, but does not expressly teach "wherein said plurality of firmware are respective firmware for a plurality of modules." However, Felouzis teaches downloading firmware to a plurality of modules [Column 2 Line 18 – 24]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to send plurality of firmware taught by Takashi and Yasushi to plurality of modules taught by Felouzis for the purpose of quickly recover firmware if one of the firmware in a module fails.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BOBAE K. CHENEY whose telephone number is (571)270-7641. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30 AM- 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Avellino can be reached on (571)272-3905. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BOBAE K CHENEY
Examiner
Art Unit 2458

/BOBAE K CHENEY/
Examiner, Art Unit 2458

/Joseph E. Avellino/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2458